United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1133
4 May 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General urges all parties to conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina to stop violence, reduce tension and secure safety of international personnel.

+ Secretary-General's Personal Representative in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Benon Sevan, meets in Kabul with President of Afghan Interim Council for talks on overall situation in that country, as well as humanitarian needs and return of refugees.

+ Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, says United Nations Transitional Authority has established "positive presence" in that country and is "working well" with the Supreme National Council; announces establishment of Cambodian Mine Action Centre.

+ Chairman of Committee on Climate Change Convention introduces proposals on limiting greenhouse gas emissions and financing mechanism for Convention.

+ Eighth United Nations inspection team confirms that Iraq has destroyed unilaterally large numbers of chemical munitions consistent with Iraqi declarations.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today strongly urged all parties to stop the violence and reduce prevailing tension in Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly in Sarajevo. He also called on all parties to respect and ensure the safety of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and other international personnel.

In a statement issued at Headquarters today, the Secretary-General said that he was "extremely disturbed by the grave developments which took place in Bosnia-Herzegovina during the last 48 hours". He said the vicious circle of attacks and retaliation could only aggravate the tragic situation engulfing the region. "It is the urgent responsibility of all the leaders in

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Bosnia-Herzegovina and its neighbours to bring an end to the violence which has already claimed too many innocent lives", Mr. Boutros-Ghali said.

He went on to say that it was imperative that negotiations under the auspices of the European Community were resumed and "genuine efforts" were made by all "to restore peace and respect for human rights for all the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina".

The Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Marrack Goulding, arrived today in Yugoslavia to examine the feasibility of a United Nations peace-keeping operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mr. Goulding would begin a two-day visit to Sarajevo tomorrow, following which he would return to Belgrade. On Friday, 8 May, he would visit the eastern sector and Zagreb, before returning to New York.

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The Secretary-General's Personal Representative in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Benon Sevan, met today with the President of the Interim Council in Kabul for a discussion of the overall situation in Afghanistan, the humanitarian needs and the return of refugees, a United Nations spokesman said today.

Mr. Sevan would hold further meetings with Afghan commanders tomorrow, 5 May, and would be in Pakistan on Wednesday for meetings expected to last a few days.

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Yasushi Akashi, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia said today that the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) had established a positive presence in that country and was working well with the Supreme National Council.

Mr. Akashi, who was speaking to correspondents at a press briefing at Headquarters, also said that the Khmer Rouge continues to deny the United Nations free access to the five regions controlled by the group. He pointed out that United Nations access to the zones was necessary so that officials could plan for the next stage of its operation in Cambodia.

According to Mr. Akashi, 4,000 United Nations personnel, including some 3,600 troops, were now in Cambodia. However, UNTAC would need an additional 11,600 personnel by 1 June, when the second part of the cease-fire agreement is scheduled to take effect, he said. Mr Akashi further stressed that an international conference of donor countries was scheduled for the end of June in Tokyo, to seek financial support for the rehabilitation of Cambodia.

The UNTAC is mandated to monitor the cease-fire agreement signed last October in Paris between the four Cambodian parties who now are now making up the Supreme National Council. The other mandates of the United Nations personnel are: to help the Cambodians on human rights; to prepare for free and

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fair elections scheduled for next May; to monitor the repatriation of 375,000 refugees, and to help with the mine-clearing operations.

In that regard, Mr. Akashi announced that the United Nations is organizing the Cambodian Mine Action Centre to be headed by the President of the Supreme National Council, Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Its aim is to train about 5,000 Cambodians in mine clearance by the end of the year. Even so, the Special Representative said, mines will be a hazzard in Cambodia "for years, possibly decades to come".

Mr. Akashi said he would be submitting a report on all aspects of the Cambodian mission to the Security Council within the few days, which he said "will hopefully accelerate the deployment of United Nations personnel".

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New proposals concerning commitments on national measures to limit emissions of greenhouse gases, as well as a financing mechanism for a framework convention to combat global warming -- centrepiece of the convention -- were introduced Saturday, 2 May, by the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Committee drafting the instrument.

Jean Ripert (France), Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change, who drew up the draft proposals, said they were aimed at facilitating the negotiations. He also said the draft texts were not the views of the French Government, but his own. Among the provisions, one deals with specific commitments by the developed countries parties to the convention to adopt national policies and corresponding measures to mitigate climate change. Those countries would further commit themselves to provide new and additional financial resources needed by developing countries parties to the convention to implement their commitments under the instrument.

Responding to the new texts, some delegates generally welcomed them, saying they were a good basis for further negotiations, while others expressed concern that issues agreed upon earlier had not been incorporated. Still others said the commitments on limiting greenhouse gas emissions were not clear about the stabilization and reduction of those gases.

The convention is expected to be presented to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), to be held at Rio de Janeiro in June.

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The eighth United Nations inspection team today confirmed that Iraq has destroyed unilaterally large numbers of chemical munitions and that the numbers are consistent with Iraqi declarations.

The objective of the inspection team, which was led by Jim Knapp, was to verify Iraq's declaration unilaterally to have destroyed 24,270 chemical

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munitions and quantities of chemical precursors, last summer. The team visited 20 sites in Iraq from 15 to 29 April and submitted its report to the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament today.

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5 May 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, expresses concern over tragic incident in which Belgian member of European Community Monitoring Mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina is killed; requests "full explanation" and assurance from local authorities that such incidents are not repeated.

+ Addressing 106th annual convention of American Newspaper Publishers Association, Secretary-General says the press has "crucial role to play in promoting the spread of democracy"; German Chancellor Helmut Kohl calls for economic assistance to eastern Europe.

+ Secretary-General reports that delays in deployment of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia could have "negative effect on operation"; suggests re-examination of United Nations financial and administrative rules applied to such operations.

+ Secretary-General's Personal Representative, Benon Sevan, meets with Minister of Defence in Mujahedeed Interim Council of Afghanistan for discussion of security situation, as well as humanitarian and economic assistance; reports continued fighting in Kabul.

+ United Nations ship "Felix", loaded with 5000 tonnes of food for hundreds of thousands of Somalis, arrives safely in port of Mogadishu.

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The President of the Security Council, Peter Hohenfellner (Austria), today expressed "deep concern" on behalf of Council members about the "tragic incident" which, a few days ago, cost the life of a Belgian national of the European Community Monitoring Mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In a statement read out this afternoon, Council members extended their sincere condolences to his relatives and paid tribute to all members of the European Community Monitor Missions who carry out their difficult tasks. While awaiting the result of an inquiry and the punishment of those responsible, they reiterated their demand that the safety of the European Community monitors and the United Nations personnel be ensured.

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Mr. Hohenfellner said he had requested that Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Vladimir Petrovsky ask Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Marrack Goulding, who is in the area, to make sure in this contacts with the authorities on the ground that "such tragic incidents not be repeated", and that the authorities provide, as soon as possible, a "full explanation" for this incident. The President said Mr. Petrovsky had already acted accordingly.

Meanwhile, according to a United Nations spokeswoman today, Mr. Goulding, accompanied by Commander of United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia, Satish Nambiar, were en route to Sarajevo, following a shooting incident around Pale, a small town 30 kilometers east of Sarajevo, which had delayed their arrival. The Under-Secretary-General is examining the feasibility of dispatching a United Nations peace-keeping operation to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

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Addressing the 106th annual convention of the American Newspaper Publishers Association today, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the press had a crucial role to play in promoting the spread of democracy. It could give a voice to the ideas and opinions of a broad cross-section of society, he said, and furthermore, by encouraging greater participation in the decision-making process, it could contribute to the democratization of international relations.

The Secretary-General further said the United Nations and its more affluent member States had the responsibility to support the efforts of those who are trying to establish and maintain a free and independent press where it had long been absent.

Referring to the "unpleasant reality" of the Orgnization's current financial situation, the Secretary-General thanked the press for its editorial support of what he called "the important principle" of paying assessed contributions in full and on time. He also asserted that a well-informed public was "essential if we, at the United Nations, are to succeed" in achieving the ideals set out in the United Nations Charter.

In his statement to the Convention, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl praised the current potential of the United Nations, saying "the need for the Organization is greater now than it has been since it was founded in 1945".

The German Chancellor also used the occassion to urge the United States and Japan to aid eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, noting "there was no sensible alternative". According to Mr. Kohl, Germany had reached the limit of its capacity to help the newly emerging democracies, having provided $45 billion to the former Soviet Union and $64 billion to eastern, central and southeastern European nations.

Earlier today, Mr. Kohl also met with environmental leaders at Headquarters, who are participating in the negotiations on a Climate Change Convention in advance of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June.

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United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) had begun to establish itself both politically and militarily, and work on all aspects of the mission's activities was proceeding at varying rates, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. However, he said, the Force had faced "difficulties and delays in deployment" which, if not remedied, could have a negative effect on the operation. Mr. Boutros-Ghali made this assessment in the first progress report on the United Nations operation in Cambodia to the Security Council, dated 1 May.

The Secretary-General went on to say that the slow pace of the recruitment and deployment of civilian staff "could impair UNTAC's ability to exercise adequate supervision and control where required"; and the slower pace of arrival of military contingents "could also have an adverse impact on UNTAC's ability to maintain its tight schedule of operations". Every effort was being made to address the difficulties mentioned in the present report, he said, and to discharge UNTAC's complex tasks within the time-frames envisaged in the implementation plan. He noted that the experience of mounting a large and complex United Nations operation such as UNTAC might point to the possible need to re-examine the existing financial and administrative rules and regulations applied to such operations.
(S/23870)

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The Secretary-General's Personal Representative in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Benon Sevan, met today with Minister of Defence in the Mujahedeen Interim Council of Afghanistan for a discussion of the security situation as well as the humanitarian and economic assistance to the people of Afghanistan.

A United Nations spokesman told correspondents today that Mr. Sevan had reported from Kabul that heavy artillery and rocket fire had continued today "with increased intensity". This morning, the office of the World Food Programme (WFP) was considerably damaged when hit by an artillery shell. There were no casualties. Because of the dangerous situation prevailing in the area, the spokesman said, further reductions would be made in numbers of international United Nations staff in Kabul. As of tomorrow, 6 May, there would be 18 international staff in Islamabad and ten in Mazar-i-Sharii..If the security situation permitted, the United Nations planned to fly several tons of medical supplies to Kabul in the next few days, the spokesman said.

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In Somalia, the safe arrival of the "Felix", a ship containing United Nations relief supplies, marks the first time since the start of major hostilities late in 1991 that food destined for hundreds of thousands of Somalis affected by the conflict in Mogadishu has been allowed to be shipped to that city. It also establishes the principle of humanitarian assistance to

all civilians, as one now accepted by the major factions and smaller groups in Mogadishu. The United Nations plans to land a ship laden with food every ten to 12 days.

In a statement issued on Sunday, 3 May, the United Nations Special Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance in Somalia, David Bassiouni, thanked the two Somali parties -- Interim President Ali Mahdi Mohamed and General Aidid -- and other groups in greater Mogadishu, for their assistance in bringing about the opening of the port of Mogadishu, and for keeping their promise of safe passage for food, as well as for national and international relief workers.

The last ship to attempt a landing at port Mogadishu, the Marco Polo, was shelled while still off-shore on 5 March, and forced to return to its port of origin, Mombasa, in Kenya.

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Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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6 May 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General endorses joint appeal by UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO for humanitarian assistance to more than one million displaced persons in Yugoslavia; Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding talks to correspondents following tour of conflict-affected areas in Sarajevo.

+ Secretary-General asks his Special Representative in Cyprus, Oscar Camillion, and Alternate Representative, Gustave Feissel, to hold talks with both sides in Cyprus, as well as in Greece and in Turkey; will review situation with Security Council and decide how to proceed by June.

+ General Assembly decides to convene World Conference on Human Rights at Vienna in June 1993.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today endorsed the revised joint appeal for humanitarian assistance in Yugoslavia launched by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO). He urged the international community to contribute "urgently and generously" towards meeting the growing humanitarian needs of more than one million displaced persons in Yugoslavia.

In the statement issued at Headquarters, the Secretary-General said he was "increasingly alarmed over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Yugoslavia, particularly in Bosnia-Herzegovina". The United Nations stood ready with the help of the international community, he said, to assist in alleviating the suffering of the affected population. He called upon all the parties to the conflict to urgently agree to a cease-fire in order to create the necessary conditions for the provision of humanitarian assistance.

In related news, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations Marrack Goulding arrived yesterday in Sarajevo for a series of meetings, including a meeting with President of Bosnia-Herzegovina Alija Izetbegovic, on the question of a possible United Nations role in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

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Following a tour of the conflict-affected areas of Sarajevo today, Mr. Goulding told correspondents at a press conference that he found it difficult to understand how the "human suffering and material damage" caused by "random shelling" in a largely civilian area could be justified. In reply to questions about the United Nations role in the region, he said there had to be "an agreement between the parties and the United Nations" before the dispatch of a peace-keeping operation would be considered. He noted that it would be "difficult to find a basis" for such an agreement.

The main role at the present time was being played by the European Community, both with regard to negotiating and monitoring the cease-fire. Mr. Goulding noted that the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) had provided humanitarian support in the region over the last few weeks -- "getting people out of burning hospitals; sometimes providing armoured transport to move people around".

Earlier today, Mr. Goulding met separately with representatives of the Croatian party, the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) and the European Community. Following the press conference, he left Sarajevo for Belgrade where he was expected to meet with the head of the Serbian party, Radovan Karadzic.

Tomorrow, 7 May, Mr. Goulding is scheduled to leave Belgrade for Zagreb via eastern Slavonia for a visit at the installations of UNPROFOR. After meetings with Croatian officials in Zagreb, as well as officials of the UNHCR and the European Community Monitoring Mission, he will return to New York.

Meanwhile, in a letter to the President of the Security Council yesterday, the Deputy Representative of the United States to the United Nations, Alexander F. Watson, said "serious questions" had arisen regarding "whether the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is the continuation of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for purposes of membership in the United Nations". He said that until the question was resolved, the participation of the representatives of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the activities of the Council or the General Assembly "should be viewed as without prejudice to the disposition of these questions".
(S/23879)

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The Secretary-General has asked his Special Representative in Cyprus, Oscar Camillion, and the Alternate Representative, Gustave Feissel, to hold discussions with both sides in Cyprus, as well as in Greece and Turkey during the first half of May. According to a statement issued at Headquarters today, the Secretary-General will review the situation with members of the Security Council at the conclusion of these talks, and decide how to proceed by June. The Secretary-General's decision is in line with Security Council resolution 750 (1992) of 19 April.

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Under that resolution, the Council decided to remain involved in the Cyprus question "on an ongoing and direct basis" and called on the Secretary-General to pursue his intensive efforts during May and June to complete the work on the outstanding issues of the set of ideas on an overall framework agreement on the Cyprus question.

In preparation for his renewed effort in Cyprus, the Secretary-General has asked his Special Representative to come to New York. In keeping with the Security Council's decision to become directly involved in support of the Secretary General's effort, his representatives have also discussed their forthcomming talks with the president of the Security Council, and other interested members of the Council.

The good offices mission of the Secretary-General in Cyprus was instituted by the Council in 1964. Four years later, the Secretary-General appointed his first Special Representative for the island.

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The General Assembly decided this morning to convene the World Conference on Human Rights at Vienna in June 1993. It took the action by adopting without a vote, a decision, orally amended, that changed the venue of the meeting from Berlin to Vienna.

Sponsored by Morroco, the decision followed a recommendation by the Preparatory Committee for the Conference that the General Assembly reopen consideration of the item on human rights questions, in light of Germany's withdrawal of its invitation to convene the Conference in Berlin.

Florian Krenkel (Austria), in confirming his country's invitation to host the conference, highlighted the importance his Government attached to human rights and the protection of fundamental freedoms. Mr. Krenkel added that Austria would provide excellent facilities to the conference to ensure a successful meeting.

Italy withdrew its preliminary offer to have the Conference take place in Venice.

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7 May 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, again calls on parties to conflict in Liberia to implement various ECOWAS peace accords; says Yamoussoukro Accord of last October offers best possible framework for peaceful resolution of conflict.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Vladimir Petrovsky, travels to Libya carrying message to Colonel Muammar Qaddafi.

+ Finnish monitor of the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia is wounded in Mostar; Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Marrack Goulding, continues meetings in Belgrade.

+ Gap between rich and poor is widening, environmental degradation is increasing and malnutrition is on the rise, according to new report by United Nations Environment Programme.

+ World Food Programme says slow response to food aid appeal could spell disaster for Horn of Africa.

+ Narcotics Control Board opens fifty-second session at Vienna.

+ Four United Nations Agencies draw attention to maternal deaths in developing world in ceremony -- "Flowers for mothers" -- at Headquarters tomorrow, 8 May.

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The Security Council this morning renewed its call to all parties to the conflict in Liberia to respect and implement the various accords of the peace process in the framework of the Committee of Five of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), including refraining from actions which endanger the security of neighbouring States.

In a statement read out at the Council meeting by President Peter Hohenfellner (Austria), the Council, commending ECOWAS for its untiring efforts to end the conflict in Liberia, said the Yamoussoukro Accord of 30

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October 1991 offered the best possible framework for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Liberia by creating the necessary conditions for free and fair elections in that country. The Accord calls for the immediate encampment and disarmament of combatants and for the holding of democratic elections in Liberia.

Members of the Council also commended the efforts of the Member States, the Secretary-General and the humanitarian organizations in providing humanitarian assistance to the victims of the civil war in Liberia and reaffirmed their support for increased assistance.

For its deliberations, the Council had before it the text of the final communiqué of the meeting of the ECOWAS' Committee of Five held at Geneva on 6 and 7 April. According to the communiqué, transmitted in a letter dated 30 April from the Permanent Representative of Senegal, in his country's capacity as Chairman of ECOWAS, the Consultative Group noted positive developments in the situation in Liberia, such as the appointment of the members of the Interim Elections Commission and the ad hoc Supreme Court, as well as the completion of reconnaissance visits by the ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG). However, many other important aspects of the Accord had remained unimplemented, particularly those relating to the establishment of a buffer zone along the Sierra Leone-Liberia border, and the encampment and disarmament of all combatants.

The Council last took up the question of Liberia on 22 January 1991, when, in a Presidential statement, it called on the parties to the conflict in that country to continue to respect the cease-fire agreement, and to cooperate fully with the efforts of ECOWAS to restore peace and normalcy in Liberia. It had also supported the appeal launched by ECOWAS for increased humanitarian assistance to the people of Liberia.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has asked the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Vladimir Petrovsky, to travel to Libya carrying a message to the Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qaddafi, a United Nations spokesman said today.

The trip is in the framework of the Secretary-General's mandate under the Security Council's resolutions 731 (1992) of 20 January and resolution 748 (1992) of 31 March. Under resolution 748, the Council had set a 15 April deadline for Libya to comply with resolution 731 requesting its cooperation in establishing responsibility for the downing of Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772. The sanctions imposed under resolution 748 include an air and arms embargo, as well as limitations on diplomatic staff at Libyan diplomatic missions and consular posts abroad.

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A United Nations spokesman told correspondents today that a Finnish monitor of the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) had

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been wounded when caught in a mortar and artillery fire in a United Nations building in Mostar, south of Sarajevo.

According to the spokesman, the monitor was caught in the cross-fire and UNPROFOR had not been the target of this attack. His condition this morning was described as stable.

Meanwhile, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Marrack Goulding, was continuing his meetings today in Belgrade with various officials on the question of the feasibility of a United Nations peace-keeping force in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Yesterday, Mr. Goulding met with the Serbian Party leader from Bosnia-Herzegovina, and today he was scheduled to meet with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and the Deputy Secretary of Defence. He would also meet with officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Mr. Goulding was due back in New York over the weekend following a visit to Zagreb.

In a related development, the European Community has said that it would not accept continuation by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of the "State, international legal and political personality of the Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia", as declared by Serbia and Montenegro on 27 April. The Community said in a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 5 May, that this declaration by the two Republics raised questions regarding the continuity of Yugoslavia's membership of international organizations, including the United Nations, and that it could not accept "the automatic continuity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in international organizations, including the United Nation".

The letter was signed by the Portugese Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Fernando Reino.

Also, the Community has informed the United Nations that it has recognized Macedonia as an independent and sovereign State "within its existing borders and under a name that can be accepted by all parties concerned". This was transmitted in a letter, dated 5 May, to the Council President by the Permanent Representatives of Belgium, France and the United Kingdom.
(S/23880 - A/46/905)

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According to a report released today by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) entitled "The State of The World Environment", the gap between rich and poor is widening, environmental degradation is increasing and malnutrition is on the rise.

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The report was released as United Nations negotiators are meeting in New York to consider a treaty to limit the emissions of carbon dioxides and other so-called greenhouse gases that could lead to global warming and disruption of the Earth's climate.. The negotiations are intended to produce an agreement that can be signed in June at the United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

Dr. Mustafa Tolba, the Executive Director of the Environment Programme, disclosed the findings of the report at a press conference at United Nations Headquarters this afternoon saying that "unless the international community sets targets soon, the situation concerning the environment is going to continue to get worse".

The report says among other things that the world's population will climb 1.7 billion in the next 20 years; that 90 per cent of the births will occurr in developing countries where 1.1 billion people already live in poverty; and that by the year 2000, the ozone layer is expected to be depleted by as much as 10 percent during the summer in temperate regions.

Dr. Tolba urged Governments and world leaders to take a "good hard look at the reports findings", before traveling next month to Rio.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) warned today that unless more emergency food aid pledges were forthcoming and food began to arrive quickly, million of people in the Horn of Africa risked malnutrition and death.

According to a press release issued at Headquarters today, Catherine Bertini, the Executive Director of WFP, said the situation in almost every country of the Horn of Africa was critical. Pledges of food and its delivery had been slow and "even non-existent" in some cases, she said. To date, less than half the food needed to reach the approximately 20 million people at risk in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia and the Sudan had been pledged. Only 15 per cent of what is needed had arrived in the region.

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Action to ensure that Governments implement the international drug control treaties in an effective manner is currently being discussed by the International Narcotics Control Board at its fifty-second session, which opened in Vienna on Monday, 4 May.

Those treaties are the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

During its two-week session, which will conclude on 15 May, the Board will devote considerable attention to the supervision of licit commerce in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and the chemicals used to manufacture drugs, to assist Governments prevent their diversion into illicit channels. It

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will also make recommendations to the international drug control system for action.

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Four United Nations Agencies, The United Nations Development Programme(UNDP), the United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA), The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), have joined the International Planned Parenthood Federation to help draw attention to the tragedy of maternal deaths in the developing world, and generate support for its prevention.

In a ceremony entitled "Flowers For Mothers", planned for tomorrow, Friday 8 May, the group will remember the 500,000 women who die each year from pregnancy and childbirth with 500,000 carnations -- one for each of those women -- on the North lawn at the United Nations. According to a press release issued at Headquarters, "Flowers for Mothers" aims to focus the world's attention on the critical role of family planning to women's health. In many cases , the release said, it can mean the difference between life and death for women and children in the developing world. A number of legislators, celebrities and supporters are expected to participate in the ceremony.

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